

SUMMARY

The San Joaquin River Management Program's (SJTMP) first annual report is being submitted in accordance with the authorizing legislation, AB 3603, Chapter 1068, signed by the Governor on September 18, 1990. A copy of the bill is included in Appendix A.

SJTMP was created to address the needs of the San Joaquin River system. Existing conditions on the San Joaquin River are less than satisfactory for many uses of the system. Continuation of the status quo will mean further deterioration in the river system, adversely impacting all users.

The legislation charges SJTMP with the following tasks:

- Provide a forum where information can be developed and exchanged to provide for the orderly development and management of the water resources of the San Joaquin River system.
- Identify actions which can be taken to benefit legitimate uses of the San Joaquin River system.
- Develop compatible solutions to water supply, water quality, flood protection, fisheries, wildlife habitat, and recreation needs.

The legislation identified specific tasks to be accomplished in developing the management program. Those tasks are listed below.

- Identify ongoing studies concerning the San Joaquin River, including the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation's San Joaquin River Basin Resource Management Initiative and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' studies on the San Joaquin River Basin.
- Identify and describe issues and problems that are affecting the river system.
- Prepare a program scope consistent with the stated purpose of the management program.
- Establish a series of priority actions with specified time frames, estimated costs and benefits, and proposed funding sources.
- Propose local, State, and federal actions to solve some of the problems and conflicts on the river system.

Accomplishments to date include providing a forum for the development of ideas and the exchange of information, identifying ongoing studies concerning the San Joaquin River, and identifying and describing issues and problems.

Time and funding constraints have slowed the activities of some SJRMP subcommittees. Efforts have been made to correct this situation but to date have been unsuccessful. Input from all subcommittees is essential to the success of SJRMP. Input is needed in its own right as well as in response to actions recommended by other subcommittees.

Another problem encountered by SJRMP is the lack of a clearly defined procedure for determining exactly when a proposal has been adequately dealt with.

Progress of SJRMP is also complicated by the fact that management strategies are developing at different rates and with different degrees of detail. The result is products which are not easily compared or prioritized.

SJRMP will focus its efforts on developing and prioritizing a comprehensive list of management strategies to benefit the San Joaquin River system. In addition, SJRMP participants will continue efforts to streamline the program itself by establishing a clearly defined procedure for finalizing strategies for implementation and securing the funding needed to keep all essential participants active.

In the immediate future, SJRMP will complete the requirement spelled out in the legislation that the Secretary for Resources appoint a project manager with the consent of the SJRMP Advisory Council. The project manager will coordinate activities of the SJRMP Advisory Council and Action Team.